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LOC.GOV



Kaleena Stasiak

Courtney McClellan creates designs for her newly released Speculative Annotation tool at the print shop at Valdosta State University.

History Becomes Collaborative with Speculative Annotation

A new interactive tool finds inspiration in historical note-making traditions.

BY SAHAR KAZMI

Before the dawn of the printing press, scholars traveled long distances to get their hands on rare medieval books, often scribbling their own notes and musings in the manuscripts' margins for future readers. Their markings – a type of personal historical interpretation – are an inspiration for a new web application, Speculative Annotation, launched by the Library last week.

Designed by 2021 Innovator in Residence Courtney McClellan with K-12 students in mind, the interactive tool offers a curated mini-col-

lection of historical Library items students – and others – can digitally draw on, add text to, highlight and otherwise creatively mark up. Afterward, they can easily download image files of the works they annotate and share them with fellow students and teachers.

"I see annotation as an artistic as well as an educational gesture," McClellan said. "The Library's collections spark so much imagination and storytelling, and annotation gives users an opportunity to jump into active conversation with a piece of history."

SPECULATIVE, CONTINUED ON 6

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at lidav@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown
Tiffany Corley Harkins
Stephanie Jefferson

Linda Malone
Kenneth Mitchell

PRESENTATION: RESULTS OF LIBRARY AUDIENCE SURVEY

Aug. 26, 11 a.m. to noon

[Online](#)

The Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement invites all staff to attend a presentation on the findings from a June 2021 survey of recipients of content from the Library's 60-plus unique GovDelivery lists. Contractor Morris Hargreaves McIntyre will present the data collected and present an analysis and recommendations that will enable the Library to deepen and broaden engagement with our current audience.

Questions? Contact the Signature Programs Office at signatureprograms@loc.gov.

Use passcode 363292 to join the presentation.

QUARTERLY TECH FORUM

Aug. 24, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

[Online](#)

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) invites all Library staff to attend its quarterly tech forum. OCIO senior leaders will update staff on recent information technology activities and field questions.

Staff can send an email to askthecio@loc.gov to submit a question in advance. Questions will also be accepted during the forum, which will be hosted on [Zoom](#).

APPLICATIONS INVITED: CAREER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The Human Capital Directorate is accepting registrations for the virtual fall session of the Library's Career Development Program (CDP). Fourteen sessions will be offered weekly on Thursdays from Sept. 2 to Dec. 16. The deadline to apply is Aug. 16 at 4:30 p.m.

The award-winning program offers an opportunity for eligible Library staff members in permanent, indefinite or temporary positions in pay plans GS/WG/WL/WS and grades 2 through 9 to enhance their professional development and leadership skills and their knowledge of the Library's service units, major programs and initiatives. (Indefinite or temporary employees' not-to-exceed date must be on or after Dec. 24, 2022.) Participants will attend workshops, receive virtual guided tours of Library service units and work with colleagues from across the Library.

To register, applicants must obtain the approval of their supervisors to participate and submit a digital copy of the completed registration form to Susan Mordan-White at smordan@loc.gov by the deadline.

For more information and to register, [visit the CDP's webpage](#).

GAZETTE

LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

Library of Congress Gazette

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GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Aug. 27 Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 18.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

More Collections Added to Loc.gov

The Digital Collections Management and Services Division has announced several newly released or newly migrated digital collections that are now available on loc.gov. They join more than 60 other new or updated collections made available since the start of fiscal 2021.

[The Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers](#), available from the Manuscript Division, includes the papers of naval officer Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough (1805-77). The online presentation consists of folder-level access to 8,000 items (11,114 images, in 43 folders) scanned from original materials. Spanning the years 1797 to 1874, the collection contains correspondence, military records, financial papers, printed material, illustrations and other papers concerning Goldsborough's long career in the U.S. Navy.

The collection also contains extensive family correspondence, especially among the extended Wirt family, which Goldsborough joined through his 1831 marriage to Attorney General William Wirt's daughter, Elizabeth Wirt Goldsborough.

Collection framework, which groups together and provides context for sets of digital content on loc.gov, was added for the [Indian Political and Social Issues Web Archive](#). It comprises sites that follow changing political and social issues in India, South Asia and diasporic communities. Content covers individual journalists, news sources, online magazines, blogs, zines, governmental and nongovernmental organizations and international organizations.

The collection includes primary websites as well as some selected social media sites. The selection of websites represents a diversity of organizations from different political stances and viewpoints.

A number of sites originally crawled in the limited [Kashmir Legal Status 2019 Web Archive](#) continue to be crawled in this collection. It is

recommended that this collection be used in tandem with the physical collection of newspapers and periodicals available in multiple Indian languages and in English.

Following the migration of the Law Library's [website](#) to a new research-center template, digital content is newly available for three collections previously available on loc.gov/law.

[Native American Constitutions and Legal Materials](#). The Law Library's collection contains a variety of Native American legal materials, including most of the laws and constitutions from the early 19th century produced by the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Creek and Seminole tribes who were forced to leave the Southeast for the Indian Territory after passage of the Indian Removal Act in 1830. Some of these documents are in the vernacular languages of the tribes. This collection includes 69 items from the 19th century and 357 constitutions and charters drafted after the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act.

[The United States Treaties collection](#). It includes the United States Treaty Series (1795-1945)

and United States Treaties and Other International Agreements (1950-84). The collection includes PDFs of 131 volumes of treaties to which the U.S. is or was a party in the agreement.

[The United States Statutes at Large](#). This collection includes every law, public and private, ever enacted by Congress, published in the order of the date of passage. These laws are codified every six years in the United States Code, but the Statutes at Large remains the official source of legislation. Until 1948, all treaties and international agreements approved by the Senate were also published in the set. In addition, the Statutes at Large includes the text of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitution, amendments to the Constitution, treaties with Indians and foreign nations and presidential proclamations. The online presentation currently consists of PDFs for 64 volumes (through the 81st Congress in 1951).

A more complete list of fiscal 2021 releases is available in [Confluence](#). ■

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**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at
www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/**

Library to Host Congress.gov Forum

On Sept. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m., the Library will host a virtual public forum to provide an update on the latest enhancements to Congress.gov and to gather feedback about the site. It serves as the official, authoritative source for federal legislative information.

Building on a [public forum](#) hosted in September 2020, participants will hear from Library technology specialists, legislative information experts and data partners from across the legislative branch about new content and functionality added to Congress.gov, as well as the site's continuing development and user experience design.

A substantial portion of the forum will be dedicated to gathering public feedback and answering questions that will help inform planning for future enhancements of the site.

The virtual public forum is free and open to the public. [Register here to participate](#). Questions? Contact Robert Brammer at rbram@loc.gov.

Request ADA accommodations five business days in advance at (202) 707-6362 or ADA@loc.gov. ■

Copyright Claims Board Officers Announced

Register of Copyrights Shira Perlmutter announced last month the appointments of David Carson, Monica P. McCabe and Brad Newberg as the first copyright claims officers on the newly established Copyright Claims Board.

Congress passed the Copyright Alternative in Small-Claims Enforcement (CASE) Act as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021. The CASE Act establishes a voluntary, streamlined

COMMUNITY COLLECTIONS GRANT PROGRAM



Tom Rankin. Lowell Folklife Project Collection/American Folklife Center

The Library and the American Folklife Center announced the official launch of a new grant program in July. Community Collections grants will support individuals or nonprofit organizations in producing cultural documentation – photographs, interviews, audio or video recordings – about a community from the community's perspective. Materials gathered will become part of the Library's permanent collection. The program is part of the [Of the People](#) initiative funded by the Mellon Foundation that creates dynamic opportunities for more people to engage with the Library. [Read more](#).

adjudication process in the Copyright Office to consider copyright infringement matters for claims that do not exceed \$30,000. The law requires the office to establish [a board to hear claims](#).

"We are pleased to welcome these three experts with such substantial experience in copyright law and alternative dispute resolution," Perlmutter said. "Their combined deep knowledge and skills will help ensure the successful launch and operation of this important new tribunal."

Since 2014, Carson has led the copyright policy team in the Office of Policy and International Affairs at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Previously, he served as executive vice president for global legal policy at the International Federation of the Photographic Industry and as the general counsel and associate register for policy and international affairs at the Copyright Office.

McCabe has chaired the intellectual property department at the law firm Phillips Nizer since 2018. She is a veteran copyright litigator with over three decades of experience, representing both copyright users and owners. She has also served on numerous arbitration panels and handled a wide range of disputes in the alternative dispute resolution context.

Newberg has led the copyright and trademark litigation practice at the law firm McGuire Woods since 2014. For more than 20 years, he has served as lead counsel in copyright matters, appearing before federal trial and appellate courts across the country. He counsels clients on cutting-edge legal issues and has also handled numerous copyright-focused transactional and licensing matters.

Carson's appointment took effect on July 6. Newberg's will begin on Aug. 16 and McCabe's on Sept. 13. ■



Courtesy of Ella Hartshorn

Ella Hartshorn

Ella Hartshorn is a geographic information sciences research fellow in the Geography and Map Division this summer.

Tell us about your background.

I am originally from western Colorado, and I earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from Colorado College in 2020. In the past year, I worked for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I managed Mexican gray wolf depredations in the Southwest. To improve ranchers' toleration of wolves, I verified field staff reports of wolf predations and coordinated compensation to ranchers for livestock killed. To improve the efficacy of management efforts, I also researched spatial and temporal dynamics of zoonotic diseases, such as rabies, that can be passed from animals to humans.

Growing up in rural Colorado, I witnessed the conflicts that arise from poorly handled human-wild-life interactions, and I have been interested in conservation since then. In my professional career, I hope to prioritize biodiversity conservation while also addressing social inequities in the context of global climate change. I will continue my studies this fall at the

University of Michigan, where I will pursue a master's degree in ecosystem science and management.

What is your project this summer at the Library?

I am a geographic information sciences (GIS) research fellow with the Geography and Map Division. I have been researching the evolution of genetic mutations that create different variants of COVID-19.

My mentor, John Hessler, and I have been using open-source genomic sequencing data to create a StoryMap of the distribution of four of the most concerning COVID-19 variants: alpha, delta, kappa and epsilon. By presenting available variant data in an accessible format, I hope to document a piece of the pandemic and provide a resource to understand the ongoing evolution of COVID-19 variants.

What have you discovered of special interest?

Of particular interest to me are the zoonotic origins of the virus. Over recent decades, many new and previously unknown zoonotic viruses have jumped from animals to humans. I have explored data on genetic samples that compare human SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, with SARS-CoV-2-like viruses found in animal species such as bats, pangolins and minks. Some of the SARS-CoV-2-like viruses in animals are a 96 percent match to their human SARS-CoV-2 counterparts. It is almost possible to witness natural selection evolving these zoonotic

viruses, which is both fascinating and frightening.

What attracted you to the GIS fellowship?

I had some experience with GIS in the past, but it was mostly self-directed and involved a lot of clicking trial and error. I was excited by the opportunity this fellowship provided to develop a more formal knowledge of GIS. The ability to communicate science effectively is key to finding a practical application for research. GIS is an incredible tool with the power to visualize and present information in a compelling format.

Will the fellowship inform your career plans?

Yes, certainly! As someone just beginning my career, each position I hold teaches me something unique and important that will help to shape my future endeavors. The work I have done in this role has exposed me to the importance of studying zoonotic diseases in relation to climatic changes, human development and habitat destruction. Ultimately, I hope to work in biodiversity conservation. Through the fellowship, I've been witnessing the interconnectedness of human, animal and environmental health.

In addition, this past year has exposed me to different paths within the federal government that I might take moving forward in my career. As I look ahead to graduate school in the fall, I will continue to be curious about how I can use my degree. Each new opportunity brings potential pathways into view. ■

ANNOTATION AS ARTISTIC ACT

Aug. 26, noon
[Online](#)

Innovator in Residence Courtney McClellan will moderate a public virtual panel highlighting her new Speculative Annotation tool and the overlap between contemporary art and educational annotation practices. McClellan will be joined by Remi Kalir of the University of Colorado, Denver; Antero Garcia of Stanford University; and Amber Esseiva of Virginia Commonwealth University. The panel will address annotation as a social, educational, civic and creative act. [Register here.](#)

SPECULATIVE, CONTINUED FROM 1

McClellan developed Speculative Annotation in the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) as part of LC Labs' Innovator in Residence program. But she collaborated with experts across the Library, gathering items from the Library's free-to-use digital holdings to serve as the foundation of the application.

Because of copyright and technical considerations, only a select number of items could be made available in the tool. But each object was carefully chosen to invite deeper exploration along several key themes, including civil and human rights, the creative process and technological development.

"We used some core guiding principles to make interesting and useful selections for the mini-collection," McClellan said. "I wanted the items to speak to a variety of topics and time periods, share the experiences of people from different racial and ethnic backgrounds and present an eclectic mix of mediums like photographs, maps, manuscript materials and more."

There are several opportunities in Speculative Annotation for students to understand the context of the historical items presented. The tool's "learn more" button offers collection details and links to additional resources on the Library's website, including explanatory blog posts about items and their place in history. And for select items, students can see a personalized annotation from a Library staff member.

In building the interface for the application, McClellan and the LC Labs team worked closely with an external user interface developer to create a multilayered workspace and incorporate specifications from the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF), which OCIO developers regularly use to display visual content on loc.gov. IIIF standards set consistent parameters for how image files are displayed on the web,

essentially allowing for easier data sharing and faster, higher-resolution viewing. This baseline enables the Library's materials to be displayed within Speculative Annotation in all their rich detail, offering quick load times and deep zooming capabilities.

The entire tool is also open source, meaning its code will be made publicly available on the Library's GitHub repository for other cultural heritage and educational institutions to freely use and transform to display their own collection materials.

Before the release of Speculative Annotation, McClellan spent extensive time in studio experimentation and class visits with students and educators to test how users might engage with the tool. Her visits included brainstorming sessions and annotation exercises, with students and teachers offering feedback throughout the tool's development.

Speculative Annotation has stamp forms, or visual icons, that McClellan created herself in a printmaking studio. They were inspired by icons already familiar to the average student. Images like arrows, pointing fingers and thought bubbles give users a way to share not just their ideas and opinions, but also their emotional reactions.

Even the tool's bright color palette was designed as an intentional contrast to the muted tones of many of the aged artifacts on display, allowing annotations to stand out against the historical items they're interpreting.

Students also offered valuable advice about how to make Speculative Annotation more user-friendly. Along with suggesting a highlighter option to correlate with the tool they most frequently used in hand-annotations, students requested that a text feature be contained within a bounding box, allowing users to write longer annotations that can wrap over multiple lines.

While McClellan considers schools a primary audience for Speculative Annotation, the application offers

a platform for learners of all ages to engage artistically with history. Building on McClellan's own background as a research-based artist and writer, the tool incorporates methods for users to participate in historical analysis, literary close reading and studio art critique. These elements expand on the Library's ongoing experimentation with innovative technologies and efforts by previous innovators in residence to kindle public participation with the Library's many treasures.

Since the launch of the Innovator in Residence program in 2017, LC Labs has hosted a data artist, a musician, a computer scientist and a multidisciplinary artist. "What unites all their efforts is a shared goal to enrich the lives and imagination of the American public," Jaime Mears, a senior LC Labs innovation specialist, said.

Moreover, amid a pandemic that has created devastating fallout for the arts community, Speculative Annotation and the Innovator in Residence program "support the work and perspective of artists as we steward the cultural record they helped create," Mears said.

To discover more about Speculative Annotation, visit annotation.labs.loc.gov.

Library staff are also invited to join McClellan, the LC Labs team and expert panelists from the fields of art and education for a public presentation of the application on Aug. 26 at noon. [Register for the event on Zoom.](#) ■

HAVING TECHNICAL ISSUES?

The Office of the Chief Information Officer's service desk is staffed around the clock with technicians ready to help. Contact ocioservicedesk@loc.gov or (202) 707-7727.